

HONORING THE ST. CLOUD AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARD
RECIPIENTS**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor three people and companies that embody both the spirit of American entrepreneurship and the heart of American public service: John W. McDowall, owner of the McDowall Company, The Mahowald Insurance Agency, and Byron Bjorklund, owner of Short Stop Custom Catering. Today, they will be honored by the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce for their outstanding success and positive contributions to the St. Cloud community.

I want to congratulate John W. McDowall, this year's recipient of the Chamber's Entrepreneurial Success Award. Mr. McDowall joined the family business after graduating high school in 1973 and worked his way up the ladder until being named President in 1999. Today, this construction company employs 130 individuals and continues to earn an impressive profit despite unexpected price increases and a sluggish economy. In addition to running a successful business, Mr. McDowall contributes to the community through his involvement on numerous boards, including Bremer, St. Cloud Technical College, St. Cloud Opportunities, and the Boys and Girls Club.

I also want to recognize The Mahowald Insurance Agency for earning the Chamber's Mark of Excellence Award. The family-owned business, which has been passed to four generations, began in 1930 when Anthony Mahowald started going door to door every week collecting premiums for life insurance policies he sold. When Tony's son, Robert Mahowald, took over in 1956, he expanded the agency beyond personal insurance coverage. The Mahowald Insurance Agency serves people, businesses, and even the schools of the St. Cloud area—and hopefully for many generations to come.

Last but not least, I want to recognize Byron Bjorklund, owner of the Short Stop Custom Catering and the 2009 St. Cloud Area Small Business Person on the Year. Beginning his career at the young age of 11, Mr. Bjorklund started in the fast food industry and in 1995, his business evolved into a catering service. He has experienced a nearly 25 percent growth by establishing solid relationships with a variety of businesses and organizations. And thanks to his entrepreneurship, more than 100 people have full-or part-time employment.

Madam Speaker, I applaud these outstanding individuals and businesses who have worked hard to achieve the American dream of free enterprise and serve our community by ensuring small businesses remain the job engine of America.

HONORING REVEREND DR. LEROY
SHELTON**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I arise today and pay tribute to the life of Reverend Dr. LeRoy Shelton. Dr. Shelton passed away suddenly on Monday, May 4th. The Flint community has lost one of its greatest leaders and I have lost a dear friend. His funeral is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th at Christ Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in Flint.

Dr. Shelton became the pastor of Christ Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in 1987. During this time the congregation grew in numbers and strength. A committed member of Concerned Pastors for Social Change, he was a vocal activist for those in need. He understood the challenges faced by individuals and advocated at all levels of government to improve the lives of our citizens. He served as a delegate to the 1992 Democratic Convention and attended the Inauguration of Bill Clinton to the Presidency. In 1995 President Clinton invited Dr. Shelton to dinner at the White House.

He viewed his political involvement as an extension of his ministry to be Christ's representative in a needy world. His love and concern for others knew no bounds. Dr. Shelton loved his congregation and they loved him. He said about being the pastor of Christ Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church:

To have shared twenty-three years in the life of the 80 years of this church . . . Canaan to Christ Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. In the interim before my pastoring began, I was impressed with the commitment, dedication, and love the members demonstrated towards one another. My mentor, the late Alfred L.C. Robbs afforded me every opportunity to grow, develop, and above all study formally to prepare myself spiritually.

Fortunately, I earned the opportunity to become his successor. Realizing that no one can ever fill the shoes of anyone, not even by following in the path trod before, the congregation enveloped me and has worked with me in a Christian manner. In the midst of hills and valleys, there has been much love. As great as the past has been, we have not ceased. We are striving to make the next years a journey upon which our Lord will be able to place a stamp of approval and say: "Well done, my good and faithful servants." It is our hope that you will have an opportunity to visit our church, "Where Christian Fellowship Is Real."

Madam Speaker, Reverend Dr. LeRoy Shelton has traveled home to be with Our Lord, Jesus Christ. During his time with us, Dr. Shelton touched lives, healed spirits, empowered the poor, and brought Christ's abundance to disheartened. He traveled the road to salvation with many people. My life is better for having known him and I share in the sorrow felt by the Christ Fellowship family. My condolences go out to his wife, Claudia, his children and to the members of Christ Fellowship. Dr. Shelton was a truly great Christian. I ask the House of Representatives to stand with me and applaud the life, charity and legacy of Reverend Dr. LeRoy Shelton.

HONORING BRYAN STONE

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bryan Stone, named the 2009 Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Council of America. To win this prestigious award one must possess entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, vision and managerial acumen as well as a profound commitment to community service.

As the owner of Columbus Gourmet, Bryan Stone has grown his business while becoming an integral part of Muscogee County.

In 2004, Stone acquired a "mom and pop" business called Kendrick Pecan and in just five years he has expanded rapidly into a thriving specialty food operation that now also includes La Piccolina, Dodge City Steaks and Aunt Pearl's. His products now enjoy strong regional brand recognition and the company now employs up to 30 people at a time.

Stone's gourmet products line the shelves of more than 900 grocery stores and he has licensing agreements for specialties and commemorative items with the Kentucky Derby, Coca-Cola, the PGA Tour, the National Infantry Foundation and Hank Aaron's Chasing the Dream Foundation.

Columbus Gourmet always cuts a slice for the local community, too. It provides vital resources to Partners in Education of Greater Columbus, which funds after-school programs, and it supplies Gourmet products that Rotary Clubs sell to raise money for charity projects.

The 3rd Congressional District resident supplements his company's philanthropic work with his own. Though he's lived there only a short time, he's already a member of the Board of Directors of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and he's served in a leadership with the local Republican Party.

Madam Speaker, we're justifiably proud in Georgia of our strong small business culture and the entrepreneurial spirit of our people who have helped our state grow and thrive. Bryan Stone exemplifies the hard work, risk-taking and perseverance that has made our economy the greatest in the world.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating Bryan Stone on winning the Small Business Person of the Year award. On behalf of the people of Georgia's 3rd Congressional District, we're proud to have Bryan Stone as our neighbor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 211 on the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, H.R. 46, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."